

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation. Their decision seems awfully transparent – a blatant and partisan attempt to sway voters.

The airwaves that Sinclair uses are ours, and we have a say about how those airwaves are used. Sinclair is obligated by law to serve our interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

I went to several Sinclair Broadcasting affiliate websites, and it is truly unnerving to see the same faces and the same messages on varied station websites across the nation. I feel fortunate to live in Oregon – we remain unscathed by Sinclair's partisan political message.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.